

Every year more and more is done for the comfort and convenience of steerage and immigrant passengers, and our parties are specially favoured in this respect. There has almost ceased to be anything of "roughing it" in crossing the ocean, even in the cheapest way. Nothing could have been more thoroughly cosy and comfortable than the quarters specially reserved for our party leaving Liverpool on the 31st of October—a large, roomy compartment, heated with stoves and lighted with electric light; everything scrupulously clean and neat; wide berths, of the full length, for everybody, big and little, with good, thick, warm blankets, quilts and sheets; capital washing arrangements, soap and towels in unlimited supply, and fresh water in large barrels standing close to the bowls and kept filled every day. All the food served is of the best quality, and no limit to quantity—except the capacity of the consumer. Fresh meat twice a day—at breakfast and dinner—with potatoes and fresh bread and butter, not to mention such etceteras as jam, marmalade, milk puddings, and plum pudding, known on board as "duff." Even oranges have been known to appear—and disappear—although these were certainly an extra and not on the regular bill of fare. It is not remarkable that people have been known to express regret at the approaching termination of a voyage, and come to the conclusion that there are many worse places to live than the steerage of an Atlantic liner.

* *

Marvellous, too, has been the improvement in "immigrant" railway travelling during the past few years. We well remember when an "immigrant special" on the Grand Trunk or Intercolonial railways meant tedious, interminable delays; frightfully uncomfortable, ill lighted, ill-ventilated cars; merciless shaking, jolting and knocking about, and an arrival at last in a state of weariness, dirt and discomfort, horrible even to look back upon. Trains of immigrants now spin over the roads as "passenger specials" at anything from 35 to 60 miles an hour, and we revel in lavatory cars, tourist sleepers, steam heat, vestibule cars, automatic brakes and Pintsch gas. Competition has done much to effect the change, but the enterprise and management of the railway companies have done more, and we gratefully express our indebtedness to the officials of all the railway and steamship companies with whom we do business, for their efforts on our behalf, and for the courtesy and attention we almost invariably receive at their hands.

* *

To myself personally, one of the most gratifying features of the past season's work has been the really excellent conduct and behaviour among our boys on board ship. It might be imagined that a small army of boys shut up within the limited compass of a ship, with little or no useful occupation to pass away their time, would give an infinite amount of trouble, and be a plague and nuisance to themselves and everyone else. On the contrary, our boys have given no trouble whatever at any stage of the journey. We have had plenty of fun and plenty of noise at the proper time, but good order, perfect discipline, strict attention to orders, and, throughout the whole season, not a single serious or disgraceful offence. Constantly have we been complimented by people who have been our fellow passengers on the good order and conduct that has prevailed, and I think it would be hard to find anyone who, after crossing with one of our parties, has taken away anything but a good impression of Dr. Barnardo's boys. I feel proud of our boys on a great many accounts, but none more so than their good behaviour on board ship, that adds so much to the pleasure of our journeys and saves so much possible trouble and anxiety.

As regards the attitude of the Canadian public and press to our work during the past year, we have not escaped the usual outbreaks of ill-natured prejudice. The larger and most influential organs of the press are generally favourable to us; but among the smaller sheets, published in little country towns, we sometimes hear of articles villifying and abusing the character of our boys in terms often so utterly indecent and scurrilous that they suggest the duck pond and the horsewhip as the best way of answering the writers. Behind this, however, there are not wanting satisfactory indications that, in spite of all the efforts to injure us by misrepresentation and by magnifying a thousandfold all our failures and shortcomings, public opinion is surely and steadily growing in our favour. People are beginning to see the injustice of condemning the whole for the faults of a small percentage, and of branding us, for example, as a criminal class because a number representing less than one per cent. have been convicted of crime. As far as we are concerned, we can always point to the farmers of the country in refutation of these attacks upon our name and character. They have had over 25 years' experience of juvenile immigrants, and, as a result of this experience, they want them to-day in three or four times the number that can be supplied. This fact cannot be too strongly insisted upon as an unanswerable proof that our children have proved themselves useful, worthy members of the community in the past, and that any opposition to our work does not arise from the class who know us and for whose opinion we have most to care.

* *

The best bit of Home news from England is that Dr. Barnardo seems wonderfully and completely restored to health and, if possible, more full of activities than ever. To those who know him he is nothing short of a marvel of energy and zeal in the cause of philanthropy. Vast as are the dimensions to which the work has grown in his hands, his watchword is still "forward." He still hears fresh "voices from Macedonia," and his talk is of greater efforts than ever, and of stretching out his hands still further to reach those in want and suffering, and to multiply agencies for usefulness. Building, enlarging and improving are the order of the day at Stepney Causeway. The interior of the great Bower street building is being largely remodelled to give accommodation to several new shops and offices, and the "Home" is more than ever complete in its appointments as a hive of industry.

* *

The twenty-ninth Annual Report of the work of the Institutions was issued to the subscribers a few weeks ago. We have given elsewhere a very brief summary of a portion of its contents to show how wonderful has been the general progress of the work, and how remarkably friends have been raised up to give their sympathy and support in larger measure than ever before.

* *

There are but few changes in the staff of the "Homes," and most of the old familiar faces are still to be seen. Mr. Anderson remains at his post at Stepney, and, though we cannot quite say of him, as of the Patriarch, that his eye is not dimmed, as we observe he has to use spectacles, we can certainly vouch that his natural forces, both vocal and muscular, show no sign of abatement. I am sure he would wish to be most kindly remembered to all old Stepney boys who are readers of *Ups and Downs*.

* *

We have a very pleasant announcement to make to our subscribers. Our paper is no longer to be the exclusive organ of the boys, but from the beginning of the year we are to

take in the girls, of whom there are now over 1,500 in the Dominion, and a part of each issue will be specially devoted to their interests. We most cordially welcome this addition to our constituency, and we trust that the circular which has been prepared and sent out by Miss Code, the secretary of the Girls' Home at Peterborough, inviting the girls to become subscribers, will meet with a liberal response. It will be an additional spur to our efforts to make our little sheet a success, and, we trust, it will prove to be of help and interest to both lads and lassies.

Alfred B. Owen

It is our deeply painful duty to refer to what is unquestionably the most distressing event in the history of our work from the time of its first establishment—the death of the poor boy George Everett Green and the subsequent committal of his employer, Miss Findlay, on a charge of manslaughter for having caused his death by neglect and ill-usage. It would be wrong and illegal to make any comment upon the case itself while it is still before the courts, but we must utter our emphatic protest against the tone adopted in many of the papers in dealing with the subject. It has been commented upon as if this poor lad, who unquestionably had physical defects, although not in the least to the extent that has been represented, was a fair specimen of our boys, and as if the filth, squalor and neglect amidst which he lived and died is typical of the surroundings of our boys in Canadian farm homes. One is as gross a misrepresentation as the other.

We believe that Green, when he left England, was free from ailment or indication of disease, but he was never robust, and after he had been out for some little time there is no doubt he fell into bad health. Had we known of his condition we should have brought him back and put him under medical treatment, but, unfortunately, neither he himself nor anyone else gave us the least intimation of his condition. He was only placed with Miss Findlay in May last, and, the neighborhood being one which Mr. Griffith visits in the winter, we had not seen anything of him. Had he been kindly and properly cared for, the poor lad might have been here still, but, instead of this, his surroundings were all of the poorest and roughest. His employer was a person struggling to maintain herself by her own almost unaided exertions on a poor farm in a very remote district, and in the boy's home there were none of the comforts, and the barest of the necessities, of life. It appears that his constitution at length succumbed under want of care and proper treatment, and the public opinion of the neighborhood expressed itself in the movement which led to the holding of the inquest and the subsequent arrest and committal of the woman.

What the issue of the forthcoming trial may be is not for us to forecast, neither have we any opinion to express upon the degree of responsibility that rests upon the accused, but we do once again repeat our protest against the cruelty and injustice of branding all our boys and girls as diseased and depraved because there appears to be evidence that this one unfortunate boy was not of sound and healthy condition, and to attack and condemn the whole system because, in this one case, there may have been an error in our judgment, either of the boy or of his home.

Our defence in regard to the latter is, that the circumstances had entirely changed since we had an opportunity of forming an impression of the place. For the past four years we have had a boy in the same household. This boy has written and spoken in the highest terms of the treatment he received, and each time he was visited he was found to be very